## ORAL ARGUMENT NOT YET SCHEDULED

## No. 10-1313

# **United States Court of Appeals** for the District of Columbia Circuit

## INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,

Petitioner,

v.

## FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION.

Respondent.

On Petition for Review of Orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

# BRIEF OF INTERVENOR AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER

STEVEN T. NOURSE
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE
CORP.
1 RIVERSIDE PLAZA, 29<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

MONIQUE ROWTHAM-KENNEDY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE
CORP.
801 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W. SUITE 320
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

STEVEN J. ROSS STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20036 (202) 429-6279

Attorneys for Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation

Intervenor Initial Brief: January 21, 2011

### CERTIFICATE AS TO PARTIES, RULINGS, AND RELATED CASES

#### A. Parties

1. Parties to the Petition for Review

The Petition for Review in this case was filed by the Indiana Utility
Regulatory Commission. Respondent in this case is the Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission. Intervenors in Support of Petitioner are American Public Power
Association, American Municipal Power, Inc., and American Electric Power
Service Corporation. Intervenors in Support of Respondent are PJM
Interconnection, L.L.C., and PJM Industrial Customer Coalition.

2. Parties to the Proceeding Below

The following were parties to the administrative proceedings (FERC Docket No. ER09-701) from which this Petition for Review arises:

Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. American Electric Power Service Corp. American Municipal Power-Ohio, Inc. American Public Power Ass'n Blue Ridge Power Agency Borough of Chambersburg, Penn. California Mun. Utilities Ass'n ClearChoice Energy Comverge Inc. CPower, Inc. Delaware Mun. Electric Corp., Inc. Demand Response Alliance Dominion Resources Services, Inc. Energy Curtailment Specialists, Inc. EnergyConnect, Inc. EnerNOC, Inc.

Indiana Office of Util. Cons. Counselor **Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission** Integrys Energy Services, Inc. National Rural Electric Coop. Ass'n New Jersey Board of Public Utilities North Carolina Electric Memb. Corp. Northern Illinois Mun. Power Agency **NRG** Companies Old Dominion Electric Cooperative Pennsylvania Public Utility Comm'n PJM Industrial Customer Coalition PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. Public Service Comm'n of Maryland Sam's East, Inc. Southern Maryland Electric Coop., Inc. Virginia Municipal Electric Ass'n.

Exelon Corporation Indiana Municipal Power Agency

ViridityEnergy, Inc. Wal-Mart Stores East, LP

Filed: 01/21/2011

## **B.** Rulings Under Review

Petitioner seeks review of the following orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

- 1) *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, Order Conditionally Accepting Proposed Tariff Revisions, Docket Nos. ER09-701-000 and -001, 128 FERC ¶ 61,238 (Sept. 14, 2009); and
- 2) *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.* Order on Rehearing, Clarification, and Compliance, Docket Nos. ER09-701-002, -003 and -004, 131 FERC ¶ 61,069 (Apr. 23, 2010).

#### C. Related Cases

The Petition for Review in this case initially was filed in the Seventh Circuit, Case No. 10-2512. That case was transferred to the District of Columbia Circuit by order issued August 27, 2010, and reconsideration was denied on September 10, 2010. This case has not previously been before this Court or any other court with the noted exception of the transfer from the Seventh Circuit. Counsel for Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation is unaware of any related cases pending before this Court or any other court.

#### D. Rule 26.1 Certificate

Pursuant to Rule 26.1 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and D.C. Circuit Rule 26.1, Intervenor American Electric Power Service Company states that it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Electric Power Company, Inc.,

a publicly-traded company. No publicly-held company owns 10% or more of American Electric Power Company. Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation provides management and professional services to American Electric Power Company and its utility operating subsidiaries.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Steven J. Ross
Steven J. Ross
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-6279

Attorney for American Electric Power Service Corporation

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Statement of Jurisdiction		
II.	Statutes and Regulations		
III.	Statement of Facts		
	A.	State and Federal Regulation of Demand Response Programs	2
	B.	PJM's Demand Response Program	7
	C.	The FERC Orders Under Review	9
IV.	Sum	mary of Argument	11
V.	Argument		12
	A.	FERC Has No Authority to Direct Local Distribution Companies to Police Retail Customers' Compliance With State Law Requirements	12
	B.	FERC's Other Arguments Cannot Overcome Its Lack of Authority	16
VI.	Conclusion		18

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Page(s)
CASES
Fla. Power & Light Co. v. FERC, 617 F.2d 809 (D.C. Cir. 1980)17
*Maine Pub. Utils. Comm'n v. FERC, 454 F.3d 278 (D.C. Cir. 2006)
Sierra Club v. Lynn, 502 F.2d 43 (5th Cir. 1974)15
*United States Telecom Ass'n v. FCC, 359 F.3d 554 (D.C. Cir. 2004)14
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES
Florida Power & Light Co., 40 FERC ¶ 61,045 (1987)13
<i>PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.</i> , 128 FERC ¶ 61,238 (2009) ("Initial Order")
<i>PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.</i> , 131 FERC ¶ 61,069 (2010) ("Rehearing Order")
San Diego Gas & Electric Co., 127 FERC ¶ 61,269 (2009)15
Wholesale Competition in Regions with Organized Electric Markets, Order No. 719, 73 Fed. Reg. 61,400 (Oct. 28, 2008), FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,281 (2008) ("Order No. 719"), order on reh'g, Order No. 719-A, 74 Fed. Reg. 37,776 (Jul. 29, 2009), FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,292 (2009) ("Order No. 719-A"), order on reh'g, Order No. 719-B, 129 FERC ¶ 61,252 (2009)

<sup>\*</sup> Authorities chiefly relied upon are marked with an asterisk.

## FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, A National Assessment of Demand Response Potential (Staff Report, June 2009)
STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES
In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Any and All Matters Related to Commission Approval of Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2009 Ind. PUC LEXIS 97 (Feb. 25, 2009) ("IURC Interim Order")
In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Any and All Matters Related to Commission Approval of Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2010 Ind. PUC LEXIS 255 (Jul. 28, 2010) ("IURC July 2010 Order")
Statutes
16 U.S.C. § 824(a)
16 U.S.C. § 824(c)
16 U.S.C. § 824(d)1
16 U.S.C. § 824d
16 U.S.C. § 824d(a)1
16 U.S.C. § 824d(e)1
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
18 C.F.R. § 35.2(a)1
18 C.F.R. § 35.28(g)(1)(iii)

#### **GLOSSARY**

AEP American Electric Power Service Corporation and its

electric utility affiliates, collectively

Aggregator An entity that combines the demand response of one or

more end-use or retail demand response providers

Demand response Changes in electric usage by end-use customers from

their normal consumption patterns in response to changes

in the price of electricity over time, or to incentive payments designed to induce lower electricity use at times of high wholesale market prices or when system

reliability is jeopardized

DOE United States Department of Energy

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FPA Federal Power Act, codified at 16 U.S.C. §§ 791a, et seq.

(2006)

Indiana Commission Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)

Initial Order *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 128 FERC ¶ 61,238 (2009)

IRP Integrated Resource Plan

ISO Independent System Operator

> and All Matters Related to Commission Approval of Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2009 Ind.

PUC LEXIS 97 (Feb. 25, 2009)

IURC July 2010 Order In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Any

and All Matters Related to Commission Approval of

Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2010 Ind.

PUC LEXIS 255 (Jul. 28, 2010)

JA Joint Appendix

PJM PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., a FERC-approved RTO

Order No. 719 Wholesale Competition in Regions with Organized

Electric Markets, Order No. 719, 73 Fed. Reg. 61,400 (Oct. 28, 2008), FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,281 (2008).

Order No. 719-A Order No. 719-A, 74 Fed. Reg. 37,776 (Jul. 29, 2009),

FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,292 (2009).

Petitioner I.B. Initial Brief of Petitioner Indiana Utility Regulatory

Commission

R. Record

Rehearing Order *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 131 FERC ¶ 61,069 (2010)

RTO Regional Transmission Organization

Tariff The FERC-approved PJM tariff at issue in this review

proceeding

Pursuant to this Court's November 19, 2010, order, the American Electric Power Service Corporation, on behalf of Indiana Michigan Power Company and other affiliated electric utilities that are directly affected by the Tariff provisions at issue in this proceeding (collectively referred to herein as "AEP"), hereby submits its initial brief in support of Petitioner.

#### I. STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

AEP adopts Petitioner's Statement of Jurisdiction.

#### II. STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

Except for 18 C.F.R. § 35.2, which is appended hereto, all applicable Statutes and Regulations are contained in the Appendix to Petitioner's Initial Brief.

#### III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

AEP adopts Petitioner's Statement of the Facts, as supplemented herein.

This case involves the intersection of the regulatory structure in states such as Indiana that have chosen to retain traditional, cost-based regulation over their utilities' provision of retail electric service, and the regulatory structure endorsed by the Respondent, FERC, to advance competition in wholesale electric markets. In the orders under review, FERC approved tariff provisions regarding retail "demand response" providers that conflict

with the demand response rules adopted by the Petitioner (the "Indiana Commission"). As a company whose utilities' wholesale business is regulated by FERC and directly affected by FERC-approved tariffs, and whose Indiana utility's retail business is regulated by the Indiana Commission, AEP sits squarely at the intersection of the two regulatory structures.

## A. State and Federal Regulation of Demand Response Programs

Demand response in the electric utility industry is one of the demand-side (*i.e.*, retail end-use customer) management tools used to reduce electricity consumption. In real-time, utilities call upon demand response either to lessen the risk that they may need to involuntarily interrupt service or to avoid the use of more expensive power plants.<sup>1</sup> On a long-term

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FERC's Staff has used the same definition of "demand response" as the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE"):

Changes in electric usage by end-use customers from their normal consumption patterns in response to changes in the price of electricity over time, or to incentive payments designed to induce lower electricity use at times of high wholesale market prices or when system reliability is jeopardized.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, A National Assessment of Demand Response Potential, at ix n.2 (Staff Report, June 2009) (quoting a 2006 DOE report to Congress) available at: <a href="http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/06-09-demand-response.pdf">http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/06-09-demand-response.pdf</a>.

planning basis, utilities may rely upon the availability of demand response to reduce the amount of generation that they must build or procure to meet projected peak demand.

Virtually every state regulatory commission has approved some form of a demand response program under which participating retail customers agree to respond to signals to reduce their consumption, generally in return for reduced electric rates. A residential customer may, for example, agree that the utility may interrupt the customer's air conditioning unit during the summer months in return for a credit on the customer's bill.

As noted in its Initial Brief, the Indiana Commission has encouraged retail electric utilities to employ demand response programs. Brief of Petitioner Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Petitioner I.B.") at 4. The Indiana Commission typically approves demand response programs through its review of each utility's integrated resource plan ("IRP"). The IRP process enables the Indiana Commission to review a utility's long-term plan to meet projected electricity demand, both through traditional supplyside resources (*i.e.*, generators) and demand-side measures, such as demand

response. IURC July 2010 Order at \*\*128-29.<sup>2</sup> The Indiana Commission has stated that:

...the more an Indiana electric utility can cost effectively rely on the demand response of its retail customers, the more it can delay or avoid the need for more costly, additional generating capacity. This delay or avoidance of new generating capacity reduces costs for all Indiana stakeholders.

*Id.* at \*129.

FERC likewise has encouraged the use of demand response as a vehicle to reduce wholesale energy costs. In its Order No. 719,<sup>3</sup> FERC required regional transmission organizations ("RTOs") that administer organized electric markets to adopt rules to enable retail demand response providers to compete with traditional supply-side providers. As FERC stated, "enabling demand-side resources, as well as supply-side resources, improves the economic operation of electric power markets by aligning

In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Any and All

Matters Related to Commission Approval of Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2010 Ind. PUC LEXIS 255 (Jul. 28, 2010) ("IURC July 2010 Order").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Wholesale Competition in Regions with Organized Electric Markets, Order No. 719, 73 Fed. Reg. 61,400 (Oct. 28, 2008), FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,281 (2008) ("Order No. 719"), order on reh'g, Order No. 719-A, 74 Fed. Reg. 37,776 (Jul. 29, 2009), FERC Stats & Regs. ¶ 31,292 (2009) ("Order No. 719-A"), order on reh'g, Order No. 719-B, 129 FERC ¶ 61,252 (2009).

current supply and demand conditions." Order No. 719 at P 16.

prices more closely with the value customers place on electric power. A well-functioning competitive wholesale electric energy market should reflect

Filed: 01/21/2011

Accordingly, FERC obligated each RTO to adopt procedures to accept bids from demand response resources on a basis comparable to supply-side resources, as long as the demand response resources meet certain technical requirements and submit bids at or below the market-clearing price for electricity. *Id.* at PP 47-53.<sup>4</sup> So, for example, in a given hour, an eligible demand response bid of \$75 for 100 megawatts could displace a generator that bid 100 megawatts at \$80. If the demand response bid were accepted, the customer would be required to reduce its consumption by 100 megawatts for the hour.

FERC was aware that RTO demand response programs might conflict with retail programs, especially in traditional cost-of-service states where the relationship between the utilities and their retail customers is pervasively regulated by the state utility commissions. In a proceeding that paralleled

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> FERC required RTOs to accept bids from individual retail customers as well as aggregators of small retail customers ("aggregators") that otherwise might not individually participate in the program: "aggregating small retail customers into larger pools of resources expands the amount of resources available to the market, increases competition, helps reduce prices to consumers and enhances reliability." Order No. 719 at P 154.

the Order No. 719 rulemaking, the Indiana Commission noted, "the relationship of demand response with integrated resource planning and other aspects of state ratemaking is complex and [] a new layer of [RTO] demand response tariffs cannot simply be added without also considering existing retail tariff structures." IURC Interim Order at \*4. The Indiana Commission later explained that while retail customers could participate in RTO programs to reduce their costs, the local utility would still need to procure power to meet those customers' full projected demands because the utility could not be sure that the RTO would call for demand response when it was needed by the local utility. IURC July 2010 Order at \*136.

In response to concerns that Order No. 719 appeared to intrude on the jurisdiction of state utility commissions to oversee demand response programs, FERC made clear that it did not rule "on retail customers' eligibility, under state or local laws, to bid demand response into the organized markets, either independently or through an [aggregator]....

Nothing in the Final Rule authorizes a retail customer to violate existing

\_\_\_\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In the Matter of the Commission's Investigation into Any and All Matters Related to Commission Approval of Participation by Indiana End-Use Customers in Demand Response Programs Offered by the Midwest ISO and PJM Interconnection, IURC Cause No. 43566, 2009 Ind. PUC LEXIS 97 (Feb. 25, 2009) ("IURC Interim Order").

Filed: 01/21/2011 Page 16 of 30

state laws or regulations or contract rights. In that regard, we leave it to the appropriate state or local authorities to set and enforce their own requirements." Order No. 719-A at P 54. In other words, an RTO could accept bids from retail customers or aggregators only if the laws or regulations in a particular state do not forbid retail customers from participating in the RTO's demand response program. See, e.g., Order No. 719 at P 155 (FERC's rules were codified in 18 C.F.R. § 35.28(g)(1)(iii), the relevant part of which is quoted in the Petitioner I.B. at 10-11).

#### В. **PJM's Demand Response Program**

Several AEP electric utilities operate within the footprint of the PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), a FERC-approved RTO operating in several Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states. AEP buys and sells power in PJM's wholesale electric markets subject to the terms of a FERC-approved tariff that includes the demand response provisions at issue in this proceeding.

PJM implemented a retail demand response program prior to Order No. 719. In recognition of concerns of certain state regulators, including the Indiana Commission, that were raised in a 2005 complaint proceeding, PJM agreed that Indiana retail customers could not participate in PJM's program unless the retail customers first obtained the Indiana Commission's approval

to do so. See Supplement to the Answer of PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., at 4, FERC Docket No. EL05-93-000 (July 15, 2005) (a copy of which is attached hereto) (referred in the Petition I.B. as the "2005 Promise").

In 2009, PJM filed to revise the demand response provisions in purported compliance with Order No. 719 ("Tariff"). See generally, PJM FERC filing, R.1; JA - . PJM acknowledged that a retail customer (referred to in the Tariff as an "end-use customer") must ensure that there are no laws or regulations prohibiting its participation in PJM's demand response programs. But PJM's proposed a revision to its Tariff that placed upon each retail utility (referred to in the Tariff as an "electric distribution company") the obligation to assert that the laws or regulations of the "Relevant Electric Retail Regulatory Authority" (which includes the Indiana Commission) prohibit a particular end-use customer from participating in PJM's demand response program. Under this new Tariff provision, if, within ten days of receiving PJM's notice that an end-use customer had registered to participate in the program, AEP did not assert and prove that such customer's participation is prohibited by Indiana law, PJM would accept the registration and thereafter accept the retail customer's demand response bids. *Id.* at 4, Tariff at 334-334A.01, 418-418A; R.1 at 4, Tariff at 334-334A.01, 418-418A; JA \_\_\_, \_\_-, \_\_-.

The Indiana Commission protested PJM's Tariff proposal, arguing that PJM's decision to require utilities to determine whether retail customers were prohibited from participation was inconsistent with Order No. 719. R.15 at 16-17; JA\_\_-. AEP likewise protested, raising the concern that it "would be placed in the unenviable position of interpreting state law and regulations and subjected to being accused of barring retail customers from access to PJM programs." R.29 at 8; JA\_\_. AEP also argued that PJM's provision would sanction participation by unauthorized retail demand response providers should AEP "fail[] to act or fail[] to convince PJM that retail customers cannot participate...." Id. at 9; JA \_\_\_. PJM responded that Order No. 719 provided RTOs with flexibility to craft tariff language. PJM further argued that assigning this obligation to the retail utilities was not "particularly burdensome," and was consistent with PJM procedures under which those utilities are responsible for reviewing retail customers' demand response registrations for other purposes. R.30 at 14; JA \_\_\_.

#### C. The FERC Orders Under Review

In its initial order, FERC responded to the Indiana Commission's and AEP's protests in a single sentence: "We agree with PJM that this proposal is consistent with Order No. 719, which provides RTOs and ISOs with substantial flexibility to develop procedures with respect to this issue." *PJM* 

*Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 128 FERC ¶ 61,238 at P 50 (2009) ("Initial Order"); R.59 at 16; JA\_\_\_. The Indiana Commission filed a timely rehearing petition, asserting that the requirement that "the retail utility bear this certification requirement is an impingement on the [Indiana Commission's] jurisdictional authority over the retail utility." R.60 at 4-5; JA . The Indiana Commission further contended that PJM's proposal "creates a greater likelihood of confusion, miscommunication, and frustration that can thwart an end-use customer's ability and motivation to participate in demand response." In that regard, the Indiana Commission discussed an instance where PJM accepted an aggregator's registration even though neither the aggregator nor the retail customer had obtained approval to participate in PJM's demand response program. *Id.* at 5-6; JA \_\_-\_.

FERC denied rehearing. FERC noted that it had already rejected the Indiana Commission's arguments and repeated the point that Order No. 719 granted PJM substantial flexibility. *PJM Interconnection*, L.L.C., 131 FERC ¶ 61,069 at P 10 (2010) ("Rehearing Order"); R.79 at 4; JA\_\_\_. FERC then added a new rationale, arguing that retail utilities (such as AEP) are subject to the authority of the retail regulators (such as the Indiana Commission), and "[g]iven this regulatory nexus," FERC was "satisfied that the retail regulatory authority will be able to exercise its full regulatory authority over

the retail utility, as it deems appropriate." Id. In other words, as long as the Indiana Commission has the authority to determine which retail customers may participate in PJM's demand response program and as long as AEP is subject to the Indiana Commission's authority, it is acceptable for PJM to require AEP to police each registering retail customer or aggregator for compliance with the Indiana Commission's rulings. Finally, FERC concluded that because PJM's Tariff provision was consistent with the previously-approved registration process in the Tariff, the Indiana Commission failed to show that adding the legal verification to this process was unjust and unreasonable. *Id.* at P 11.

#### IV. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

FERC's response to the Indiana Commission's concerns was inadequate. First, FERC's assignment of a policing responsibility to the retail utility is outside the reach of FERC's authority. Second, FERC cannot overcome this infirmity by pointing to the "flexibility" purportedly provided to RTOs under Order No. 719, or by speculating as to the "confusion" that might have arisen under the Indiana Commission's alternate proposal. And third, FERC erred by shifting to the Indiana Commission the burden of showing that PJM's proposed change was unjust and unreasonable; PJM and

FERC bore the burden of showing how PJM's Tariff was consistent with FERC's authority.

#### V. ARGUMENT

Α. FERC Has No Authority to Direct Local Distribution Companies to Police Retail Customers' Compliance With **State Law Requirements** 

In Order No. 719, FERC recognized the federal-state jurisdictional dividing line by acknowledging that state law controls whether retail customers may participate in RTO wholesale demand response programs. Indeed, FERC made clear that an RTO "must not accept bids from an aggregator of retail customers ... where the relevant electric retail regulatory authority prohibits such customers' demand response to be bid ...." 18 C.F.R. § 35.28(g)(1)(iii); Order No. 719-A at PP 41-55. So, for purposes of this review proceeding, the parties agree that FERC has no authority to determine whether individual retail customers may participate in PJM's demand response program. PJM's Tariff purported to abide by this jurisdictional determination, but it did so by imposing upon retail utilities such as AEP the burden to take specific action in order to preserve the state regulators' admitted jurisdiction. As AEP pointed out, however, if AEP failed to alert PJM that a particular customer was not authorized to participate in PJM's program, PJM would assume that the customer may

participate under PJM's FERC-approved Tariff. But FERC has no authority to require a retail utility to assume that role, because FERC has no jurisdiction over retail customers or a retail utility's relationship with those customers, and because FERC may not delegate its authority to third parties.

Section 201 of the FPA provides for federal regulation of the sale of electric energy at wholesale in interstate commerce and the transmission of such energy in interstate commerce, and declares that "such Federal regulation [shall] extend only to those matters which are not subject to regulation by the States." FPA § 201(a), 16 U.S.C. § 824(a). Consistent with FERC's ruling in Order No. 719, demand response falls within those matters left to the States to the extent that it involves compensating *retail* electric end-use consumers for their commitment to use less electricity. Indeed, FERC has never ruled that such a commitment is a *sale of electricity* at wholesale under FPA Section 201(d), which defines the "sale of electric energy at wholesale" as "a sale of electric energy to any person for resale." 16 U.S.C. § 824(d). Nor has FERC held that demand response falls within its definition of "electric service" as defined in 18 C.F.R. § 35.2(a). Likewise, FERC has never ruled that a retail customer's demand response commitment falls within the definition of "transmission," which applies to the delivery of electricity over the interstate grid. See Florida Power &

Light Co., 40 FERC ¶ 61,045, 61,120 (1987). See also FPA § 201(c), 16 U.S.C. § 824(c) ("electric energy shall be held to be transmitted in interstate commerce, if transmitted from a State and consumed at any point outside thereof ...") (emphasis added). Accordingly, just as FERC acknowledges that it has no FPA authority to determine which retail customers may participate in demand response programs, FERC also has no such authority to require retail utilities to make that determination.

FERC attempts to bridge this jurisdictional gap by asserting that because a retail utility is subject to the authority of the retail regulator, there is a "direct regulatory nexus" between the retail regulator and the retail utility. Rehearing Order at P 11; R.79 at 4; JA \_\_. That may be the case, but it begs the question of what if anything that nexus has to do with FERC's authority. The key point is that there is absolutely no "direct regulatory nexus" between FERC and the retail utility or between FERC and the retail regulator that would authorize FERC to require the retail utility to act on behalf of the retail regulator.

FERC fares no better if it actually intended that the retail utility act on FERC's or the RTO's behalf in determining which entities may provide service under FERC-approved tariffs. This Court has ruled that agencies may not delegate their authority to outside entities. *See, e.g., United States* 

Telecom Ass'n v. FCC, 359 F.3d 554, 566 (D.C. Cir. 2004); see also Sierra Club v. Lynn, 502 F.2d 43, 59 (5th Cir. 1974). FERC similarly has recognized that it may not delegate "any substantive decision-making authority" to outside entities. San Diego Gas & Electric Co., 127 FERC ¶ 61,269 at P 109 (2009). Yet, FERC attempted to do just that by requiring retail utilities to determine retail customers' eligibility to provide demand response service under a wholesale tariff.

In fact, FERC goes further by approving a tariff under which FERC will deem a demand response transaction to be subject to FERC authority unless the retail utility takes specific action. Having already ruled in Order No. 719 that only state regulators—not FERC—are authorized to determine which retail customers may participate in wholesale demand response programs, FERC cannot now contend that it may oust a state regulator of that authority if a third-party fails to act on the state regulator's behalf. If FERC does not affirmatively find that no state laws prohibit a retail customer's participation, FERC has no authority to sanction that participation. In other words, a third party's inaction cannot confer upon FERC authority that FERC already determined it does not have.

#### **B.** FERC's Other Arguments Cannot Overcome Its Lack of **Authority**

FERC's acceptance of the PJM Tariff proposal and rejection of the Indiana Commission's and AEP's concerns initially rested on the notion that PJM's proposal is consistent with Order No. 719, which provides substantial "flexibility." Initial Order at P 50; R.59 at 16; JA \_\_. Order No. 719's discussion of "flexibility" reflected FERC's decision not to dictate one-sizefits-all tariff language for every RTO. But that "flexibility" did not confer upon RTOs the unbridled authority to delegate a compliance function to retail utilities. Nor could it.

As to the Indiana Commission's proposal of putting the compliance obligation on the aggregators, FERC concluded that "shifting the responsibility for an eligibility representation to the aggregator of retail customers would require the implementation of a new, parallel process that could confuse, complicate, or delay registrations." Rehearing Order at P 11; R.79 at 4; JA \_\_. This is pure speculation, as there is no evidence in the record supporting FERC's conclusion. But even if FERC's concerns were valid, they would not provide a legal basis for assigning to AEP the obligation to be the jurisdictional enforcer.

Finally, FERC ruled that the Indiana Commission had not shown that it is unjust or unreasonable for PJM's Tariff to require utilities to police

retail customers' participation in PJM's demand response program.

Rehearing Order at P 11; R.79 at 4; JA\_\_. But the PJM Tariff revision at issue was filed pursuant to Section 205 of the FPA. R.1 at 1; JA\_\_; 16 U.S.C. § 824d.<sup>6</sup> Under FPA Section 205, the filing utility (and ultimately FERC) has the burden of demonstrating that the proposed changes are "just and reasonable." 16 U.S.C. §§ 824d(a) and 824d(e); *Maine Pub. Utils.*Comm'n v. FERC, 454 F.3d 278, 283 (D.C. Cir. 2006); Fla. Power & Light Co. v. FERC, 617 F.2d 809, 814 (D.C. Cir. 1980). In this case, FERC failed to show how PJM's new Tariff provision fell within FERC's lawful authority. That obligation cannot be satisfied by transferring to the Indiana Commission the burden of showing why PJM's change was *not* just and reasonable. The Indiana Commission had no such burden.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> PJM's filing included red-lined sheets clearly showing that the policing requirements placed on the local distribution company were newly added provisions to the Tariff. *See*, *e.g.*, R.1 at Att. B, Tariff Sheet Nos. 334A-334A.01, 418-19; JA \_\_-\_\_, \_\_-\_\_.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, and those stated in Petitioner's Initial Brief, the Court should grant the Petition for Review and remand FERC's orders at issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Filed: 01/21/2011

Steven T. Nourse American Electric Power Service Corporation 1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

Monique Rowtham-Kennedy American Electric Power Service Corporation 801 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 320 Washington, DC 20004 /s/ Steven J. Ross
Steven J. Ross
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave. N.W
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-6279

Counsel for Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(7)(C) and D.C. Circuit Rule 32(a), the undersigned certifies that this Brief of Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation in Support of Petitioner complies with the applicable type-volume limitations. Exclusive of the portions exempted by FRAP 32(a)(7)(B)(iii) and D.C. Circuit Rule 32(a)(2), this brief contains 3,622 words. This certificate was prepared in reliance on the word-count function of the word-processing system used to prepare this brief.

/s/ Steven J. Ross
Steven J. Ross

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Steven J. Ross, hereby certify that on January 21, 2011, I electronically filed the foregoing Brief of Intervenor American Electric Power Service Corporation in Support of Petitioner with the Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by using the appellate CM/ECF system.

I also certify that, accordingly, all counsel of record have been served by the appellate CM/ECF system in compliance with Circuit Rule 25.

American Municipal Power, Inc. Gary J. Newell

Thompson Coburn

1909 K St., N.W., Suite 600 Washington, DC 20006-1167

Email: gnewell@thompsoncoburn.com

Filed: 01/21/2011

American Public Power Association Randolph Lee Elliott

Miller, Balis & O'Neil, P.C.

1015 – 15th Street, N.W., Twelfth Floor

Washington, DC 20005

Email: relliott@mbolaw.com

Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission

Samuel Soopper, Attorney

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20426

Email: Samuel.Soopper@ferc.gov

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Beth Krogel Roads Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission 101 West Washington St., Suite 1500 E Indianapolis, IN 46204 Email: bkroads@urc.in.gov

Filed: 01/21/2011

Eric A. Eisen Eisen & Shapiro 10028 Woodhill Road Bethesda, MD 20817-1218 Email: eric@eisen-shapiro.com

PJM Industrial Customer Coalition

Robert A. Weishaar, Jr. McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC 777 N. Capitol St., N.E., Suite 401 Washington, DC 20002-4292 Email: rweishaar@mwn.com

PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Barry S. Spector Wright & Talisman, P.C. 1200 G St., N.W., Suite 600 Washington, DC 20005

Email: spector@wrightlaw.com

/s/ Steven J. Ross
Steven J. Ross